



DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town
CHARTERED 1749 INCORPORATED 1961

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Cydney Neville, Director of Community Services

DATE: January 30, 2013

RE: Monthly Department of Community Services Update

Priorities:

- Dumfries Cares
- Black History Month
- 2013 Farmer's Market
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Multicultural Festival
- Volunteer Program

Dumfries Cares

The *Dumfries Cares* program will begin running it's after school component of the program on February 4, 2013.

Middle School Program-Monday's 3:30-6:30pm, serving grades 6-8

Elementary School Program-Wednesday's 3:45-6:45pm, serving grades 2-5

High School Program-Thursday's 2:30-5:30pm, serving grades 9-12

Staff had several opportunities for professional development from the Virginia Mentoring Association, and the National Mentoring Summit in Washington, DC, and is currently being trained on the implementation of prevention programs that will be implemented in the after school setting.

Staff has also been building a presence for *Dumfries Cares* in the community, by establishing relationships with community partners in the schools, non-profits (ACTS), and local businesses, as well as interacting with citizens in the community.

*It is important to note that *Dumfries Cares* Staff work solely on the *Dumfries Cares* Program, the Community Services Director completes all other tasks other than Market Manager.

2013 Black History Month

The Town's Black History Month Celebration will take place on Saturday February 9, 2013 from noon – 2pm. The theme for the event is “Believe, Achieve, Succeed Showcasing Inspiring Testimonials from Change Agents in our Community.” The celebration will be held at Little Union Baptist Church. The program will take place from noon-1pm, which will include guest speakers, history, reflection, and entertainment from the community. Following the program, guests are invited to join us for a reception until 2pm.

Farmer's Market

The Town's Farmer's Market is set for a Grand Opening on Saturday, April 13, 2013! Our Market is now partnered through the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences and featured on the Virginia Grown website! Registration materials for participants will be available shortly.

Easter Egg Hunt

The 2013 Easter Egg Hunt will be marketed in the community and surrounding areas, in early February.

Multicultural Festival

The Multicultural Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Garrison Park from 10am-5pm. Registration forms for vendors as well as Bar-B-Que Battle participants will be available early February. The event will be marketed beginning early February as well.

New to this year's festival- LOVEwork! In an effort to make the Town and its festivals tourist destinations and to promote family friendly travel destinations, Virginia Tourism's LOVEwork is constantly on 'tour' throughout the state of Virginia, and will be on display in Garrison Park from May 3rd-May 7th! Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEwork and to upload their photo on the Virginia Tourism Website: <http://www.virginia.org/LOVE/>

Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program is in the works. Initial stages will consist of an online volunteer management database that will allow volunteers to record and document their volunteer hours, implementation of a Volunteer Handbook, a screening process, and volunteer job advertisements (as needed) from departments.

Grants

- Dumfries Cares

- Walmart Grant- The Department of Community Services has received \$5,500 in grant funding from the Dumfries Walmart to support our Market and Health Initiative! Funds provided will cover the Market Manager, help to advertise the weekly nutritional option in the community (to include a banner and tent fold sign), provide funding for the Grand Opening, nutritious educational materials for youth who attend, provide pedometers for a walking program, and bags to give to the first 100 visitors!

ON-GOING ITEMS:

Senior Luncheon

Due to the forecasted inclement weather, the January Luncheon was canceled.

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on February 15th from 1pm-2:30.

English as a Second Language

The ESOL classes are still going strong, thanks to the partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County. Mrs. Sonia Hoehn has been doing an exceptional job as our volunteer teacher for this class, and is a pleasure to work with. The Town's FREE ESOL classes are offered on Tuesdays from 10am-noon.

Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries

Building a Presence is a community engagement and awareness campaign that will help to create a presence and rekindle relationships within the Town, for citizens and those in surrounding communities. The goal of Building a Presence is that by the end of the next fiscal year, it will be expected for citizens and those in surrounding areas to look to Dumfries first when it comes to finding family friendly activities, festivals to enjoy, community service events and programs. This will be an ongoing campaign, and if successful, all of our events will be well attended and citizens will be well aware of what the Town of Dumfries has to offer.

In the spirit of putting Dumfries First, with the implementation of *Dumfries Cares*, our Town will be unique in being one of the few, if not the only, Town in Virginia to offer a mentoring program for its youth! The implementation of the mentoring program, in addition to the Summer Youth Employment Program, makes the Town of Dumfries a trailblazer in investing in the future of our youngest citizens!

In the spirit of Building a Presence for the Town of Dumfries, the sense of pride in our Town was palpable at the parade, and at the community block party towards the end of the event! The Department of Community Services will continue to strive to build upon "Dumfries Pride" in our citizens, throughout 2013!

Community Partnerships

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County-ESL classes (<https://sites.google.com/site/litvolpw/>)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC-Parenting classes, 4-H resource, nutrition resource (<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/prince-william/>)
- Big Sis & Company - (www.bigsisandcompany.net) This company is focused on domestic violence prevention. Their CEO was a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration! They will be hosting a few domestic violence prevention programs in the community center.
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor, but has also donated children's books.
- Pillar Church-Movies on the Lawn, volunteers. (<http://www.pillardumfries.com/>)
- Weems Botts/Historic Dumfries - Mrs. Barron has given presentations at some of our Senior Luncheon's and was also a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration. (www.historicdumfries.com). She works diligently with our SYEP Participants on Fridays as well.